

March 2021

Volume 60, No. 1 Page 1

## President's Message:

Well, I have to say that the light at the end of the tunnel no longer looks like an oncoming train. I am hopeful that this year-and-a-half-long pandemic has finally turned the corner. I am fully vaccinated and was finally able to hug my granddaughter. As we make our way cautiously back toward normality, please continue to wear a mask when you go out into the world, and do the other things that make sense, pandemic or not – like washing your hands at every opportunity.

This has been a tough year for the club. In normal times we'd be congratulating ourselves on another successful show at this point in the month. Instead, we are looking forward to a 2022 show we hope will be bigger and better than ever. Although we aren't yet ready to open the clubhouse to a general meeting, we are organizing our annual auction and hope this will be the next best thing. Read more about it elsewhere in this newsletter. Please plan to participate.

*Julia Larson, President*

## Officers, Directors and Appointed Positions for 2020-2021

**EMAIL FOR THE FOLLOWING, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED IS: SGAMS2020@GMAIL.COM**

Julia Larson, President 727-410-3781

Richard Bunton, Vice President 570-592-6562

Gerri Groves, Recording Secretary 727-656-0322

Patricia Church, Treasurer 941-718-0664

Susan Biel, Corresponding Secretary 315-380-7037  
Email: peechikeene8@gmail.com

Kelly Nolen, 3 Year Director 727-584-2775

Breta McGuire, 2 Year Director 727-744-7344  
(PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR A CALL BACK)

Irene Muench, 1 Year Director 727-421-5832

Sherry Staley, 1 Year Director 727-480-6730

Bill (William) Schmidt, Facilities 727-657-0998  
and Show Chair

Donna Sapp, Membership 727-420-0383  
Email: DSapp43@yahoo.com

JoAnn Knoss, Dinner Committee 727-238-8345

Debra Bremer, Webmaster 727-298-0061  
Email: bremerlapidary@yahoo.com

Susan Biel, Editor, Rock-A-Gram 315-380-7037  
Email: peechikeene8@gmail.com

### TABLE OF CONTENTS:

President's Message —	Cover	Gem of The Month —	5
Officers & Directors —	2	Useful Links —	6
Request for Contributions —	3	Ads & Class Info —	7
Meeting Minutes —	3	Class Protocol —	8
AUCTION HELP NEEDED! —	4	About Us —	9

## THE ROCK-A-GRAM IS *YOUR* NEWSLETTER -

PLEASE CONSIDER SUBMITTING SUGGESTIONS FOR INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE: Submit Articles of interest you come across, something you yourself wrote, HOW-TO'S, photos, trivia, jokes, quizzes, etc. (do include credit information if you are not the author/creator) Email them to:

SUSAN B. @ PEECHKEENE8@GMAIL.COM  
DEADLINE IS THIRD SUNDAY OF THE MONTH, SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY.



### SUNCOAST GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Due to the lack of Quorum, there was no official Board Meeting in February 2021

## A ~~CALL~~-CRY FOR HELP!!

Dear Members:

I have been trying to pull together Auctions to help augment the clubs finances, and as I mentioned in earlier articles, it is a labor intensive task! I have had some amazing help from several members, however, the kind of help I need now is TECHNOLOGICAL! These are the areas where help is needed:

- 1) Someone who is comfortable-knowledgeable with uploading photos to Facebook—LOTS of photos, plus adding descriptions. With that done, we could hold auctions using Facebook.
- 2) Someone who is familiar with ZOOM, “mirroring” devices, using the mobile hotspot function with their cell phone—and has a phone with enough data, a computer with a good webcam and microphone and **who is local and has the time. I need at least two such people.** If we can pull together this group we can run an auction through ZOOM;
- 3) An AUCTIONEER! If we can figure out the ZOOM auction, we might be able to have a “remote” Auctioneer, but ideally, someone local would probably work best.
- 4) Someone who has used and knows the workings of FACEBOOK LIVE

AND—if by the month of MAY there are enough members who are fully vaccinated, maybe we could hold a LIVE IN PERSON Auction at the clubhouse, and use ZOOM or FACEBOOK LIVE to include those who cannot attend.

**IF YOU CAN HELP IN THIS CAPACITY, PLEASE CALL ME! Susan Biel, (315) 380-7037**

If you catch me at a time that I cannot answer, **please leave your name and a message.**

**PLEASE— CONSIDER “GIVING” TO YOUR CLUB, WITH YOUR TIME AND TALENT! AND DON’T BE SHY— IF YOU THINK YOU KNOW “A LITTLE BIT” ABOUT THESE ABOVE NEEDS, YOU MAY BE SURPRISED THAT YOU REALLY KNOW A LOT AND CAN REALLY BE A HUGE HELP TO THE CLUB!**

## NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The SGAMS Annual Meeting will be in April, and President Julia Larson has appointed a Nominating Committee comprised of Rick Bunton and Susan Biel.

As Julia does not wish to carry on in the capacity as President, **a member who has been on the Board** for at least one year (either currently, or in the past) **will need to be nominated for and accept that position.**

Rick Bunton will accept nomination to retain his position as Vice President, as will Patricia Church for Treasurer, and Susan Biel for Corresponding Secretary.

After many years serving as Recording Secretary Gerri Groves is stepping down. We owe her many, many thanks for her dedication to this task since 2014.

Additionally, as the Directors rotate through their positions, Breta McGuire will go from being the Three Director to the Two Year and Kelly Nolen will go from being the Two Year Director to a One Year Director. **We will need two members** in good standing to fill the positions of Three Year Director, and one for the additional One Year Director.

So, when Rick or Susan approach you about serving in one of these capacity's, please give it your thorough consideration! These positions are all voluntary, and serving as an Officer or a Director is a rewarding opportunity to be in on the continued success and viability of our Club. New ideas, fresh energy and the spirit of comradery are what keeps us going and growing! Please "give back" to the Club with your knowledge, enthusiasm and talents.

**To read about the DUTIES of these positions, follow this link to The By-Laws on our website and read Articles VI and VIII**

<http://www.sgams.com/bylaws/Bylaws.htm>

"Geologists have a saying -  
Rocks remember "

~ Neil Armstrong



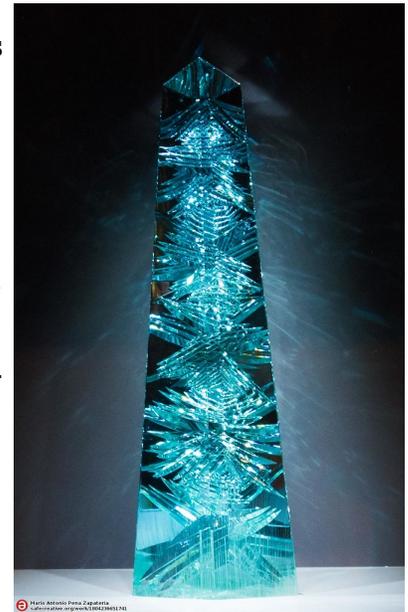
## Gem of The Month: Aquamarine



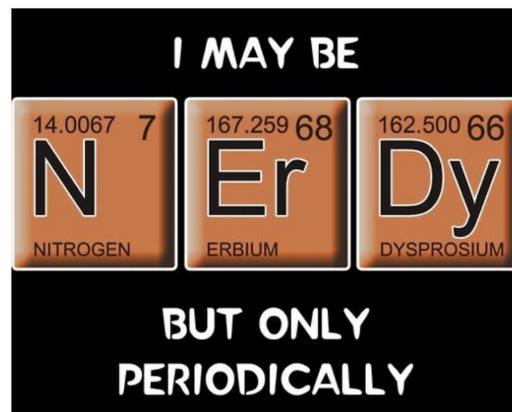
**AQUAMARINE** comes from the two Latin words for “water” and “sea” and it is no wonder that it was associated with the Roman God Neptune and the folklore that sailors believe it will protect them at sea and bring them home safely. Besides being the March birthstone, it is the gem for the 19th year anniversary.

In 1936, President Getúlio Vargas of Brazil, presented U.S.A. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt with a 1,298-ct aquamarine gemstone when she and President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Brazil. The Roosevelt Aquamarine is presently on display at FDR’s Presidential Library in Hyde Park, NY.

The largest cut aquamarine in the world is the Dom Pedro’ which is a faceted column, or obelisk made from a rough crystal that was almost three feet long and weighed close to 100 lbs. The cut stone measures 14 inches by 4 inches wide (at the thicker base) and weighs 10,363 cts. Found in Minas Gerais, in Pedra Azul, Brazil in the 1980s, it was named Dom Pedro after the first two emperors of Brazil, Pedro I and Pedro II. It is on display in the Smithsonian National Museum Hall of Geology.



To understand the size of these famous gems, a one carat Aquamarine would be 6.82 mm and Megan Markle’s aquamarine ring is “only” 30 carats!



## Helpful Links:

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies web site is at: <http://www.amfed.org>

American Lands Access Association: [www.amlands.org](http://www.amlands.org)

Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies Website at: <http://www.amfed.org/sfms>

National Park Foundation: [www.nationalparks.org/explore-parks](http://www.nationalparks.org/explore-parks)

Canaveral Mineral & Gem Society: [www.canaveral-mgs.com](http://www.canaveral-mgs.com)

Central Florida Mineral & Gem Society: [www.cfmgs.org](http://www.cfmgs.org)

Imperial Bone Valley Gem, Mineral & Fossil Society: [www.bonevalley.net](http://www.bonevalley.net)

Pinellas Geological Society: [www.pgs.rocks](http://www.pgs.rocks)

Tampa Bay Fossil Club: [www.tampabayfossilclub.com](http://www.tampabayfossilclub.com)

Tampa Bay Mineral & Science Club: <http://www.tampabayrockclub.org/>

Withlacoochee Rockhounds of Hernando County: [www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com](http://www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com)

An amazing resource is the website: <https://geology.com> — a wealth of information on geology, rocks, minerals, volcanoes, etc. ; maps, and geology products for sale. . .

**Our Web Site:** <http://www.sgams.com>

**WE THANK OUR ADVERTISERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGE ALL OUR MEMBERSHIP TO VISIT AND PATRONIZE THEIR BUSINESSES.**



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 to create Rings, Earrings, Bracelets, Necklaces,  
 Chain Maille, Pendants, Charms and Keyrings.

**Clubhouse Class Schedules - By Reservation Only\***

\* please see CLUBHOUSE PROTOCOL DUE TO COVID, PAGE 10

**CABBING: Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 pm**

Rick Bunton [ricbunton@gmail.com]

Must receive request by Friday

**Thursdays 12 to 4pm**

Larry Murray (727) 686-1314

Must receive TEXT request by Tuesday Evening

**FACETING/WIREWRAPPING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm**

Dave Watson 727-541-2917 or sgams2020@gmail.com

**SILVER SMITHING: Tuesdays, 6 to 9 pm and Saturdays 1 to 5 pm**

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

**WAX CASTING: By Reservation, announced by Email Blast to All Members**

Joe Cooper 317-775-5476 or sgams2020@gmail.com

The Meek Shall Inherit the Earth,

But Not Its Mineral Rights.

~ J. Paul Getty

**CLUBHOUSE PROTOCOL DUE TO COVID (revised 11/07/2020)**

Dear SGAMS Member

We sincerely hope that all of our members have been staying safe during this most stressful time. Due to the continuing pandemic and County guidelines for COVID-19, the SGAMS Board of Directors made the decision to provide shop time, however, to protect our members and our moderators the number of members allowed in our shops at any time has been limited.

**Cab Shop reopening guidelines.**

The Moderators emails are listed on Page 9. Interested participants must contact the Moderator by the stated deadline for the day they wish to attend. Please be advised that you must be scheduled for your shop time. If you do not receive permission from your moderator, please do not just show up, for you will be turned away. We must ensure adequate social distancing so only a few members at a time being permitted to attend the Cab Shop session. The moderators will rotate individuals so everyone gets a chance for shop time. We ask for your patience as we develop a schedule that works for everyone.

**Silver Smithing Students**

For Silver Smithing Students our rules will be similar to the above. Joe Cooper will provide two days each week Tuesday 6 pm till 9 pm and Saturday from Noon till 4 pm.; because of the limited space in the silver room, only two students will be allowed at each work sessions. Joe will send me notification of class times, and when I send the email blast, his email will be included for you to contact him directly—this also applies to Casting Classes.

Please note:

- You must wear a face covering (mask) at all times during shop time or whenever you are within 6 feet of other members.
- As always you are required to clean up all the equipment that you use.
- If you are scheduled for a shop session or class, (please, please, please,) only attend if you are feeling 100% well. If you feel the slightest bit unwell please advise your moderator and stay home. We will all thank you for protecting our moderators and fellow members.

Susan Biel

SGAMS Corresponding Secretary

peecheene8@gmail.com

## ROCK-A-GRAM

This is the official newsletter of the SUNCOAST GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. , 4619 69th St. N. St. Petersburg, FL 33709\*

This Society is a member of the SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC., and its parent society, the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES, INC

The general purpose of this society is to promote popular interest in education and research in the earth sciences and lapidary arts, and to cooperate with other similar organizations

~~General Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, September through April at 7:00 p.m., at our clubhouse, 4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL. December and May meetings are special meetings and a time and place will be announced in this bulletin. The public is cordially invited to attend the general membership meetings.~~ **[NOTE FOR 2020: GENERAL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, DUE TO COVID-19 ]**

Dues: \$20.00 single or \$30.00 couple/family; due annually each September

**Feel free to copy any material from this bulletin, but please list all byline credits**

If you have an article or information that you would like to contribute to the Rock-A-Gram, please email it to [peecheene8@gmail.com](mailto:peecheene8@gmail.com) with **"FOR THE ROCK-A-GRAM"** in the subject line, by the first Thursday of the month, between September and May. Thank you! ~ Susan Biel, Editor

\*[the club no longer has a Post Office box, and now receives mail at this location]

### **Webmaster**

(Website) **Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Debra Bremer  
Email: [bremerslapidary@yahoo.com](mailto:bremerslapidary@yahoo.com)  
Phone: (727) 298-0061  
[www.SGAMS.com](http://www.SGAMS.com)

### **Membership Committee**

(Membership)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Donna Sapp  
Email: [DSapp43@yahoo.com](mailto:DSapp43@yahoo.com)  
Phone: (727) 420-0383  
3200 74th Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33702

### **Show Committee**

(Show Chair)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Bill Schmidt  
Email: [SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com](mailto:SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com)  
Phone: (727) 657-0998  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

### **Facilities**

(Building Supervisor)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
Bill Schmidt  
Email: [SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com](mailto:SGAMSGemShow@gmail.com)  
Phone: (727) 657-0998  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL

### **Dinner Committee**

(Club Dinners)—**Suncoast Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.**  
JoAnn Knoss  
Email: [sgams2020@gmail.com](mailto:sgams2020@gmail.com)  
Phone: (727) 539-6388  
4619 69th Street North, St. Petersburg, FL